

INCOMING AIRGRAM

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Federal Economics Minister Erhard told press conference here he has no repeat no immediate plans visit Soviet Union despite fact invitation do so given him by Soviet Deputy Premier Mikoyan last April during latter's visit FedRep.

EE/C (9/10/59)

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Halla

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201.

Visit previously postponed because international situation, and again after Bayreuth execution last June, to avoid any political misunderstanding (Bonn 0-282).

This time Erhard explained situation Soviet Zone made acceptance invitation impossible. He said Mikoyan originally proposed visit to "further human contact". But, said "how can I establish human contacts in Moscow when brutal measures Soviet Zone making personal contact with our fellow Germans impossible."

Actually Erhard had no repeat no intention going Moscow this time. According Foreign Office, Federal Government did not believe visit would serve useful purpose in present political climate. Press statement however primarily intended focus public attention attention in GDR and if possible prod Soviets on issue.

HNUCK

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